

What is the NPNA?

The Normal Park Neighborhood Association (NPNA) of Ypsilanti, Michigan, formed in 1989, is the oldest neighborhood association in the City of Ypsilanti. The mission of the NPNA is to have a positive, lasting impact on the quality of life in the Normal Park neighborhood, and thus the City of Ypsilanti as a whole. Through active partnerships with other civic groups, businesses, schools, libraries, neighbors and government, the NPNA works to beautify the environment, protect property values, encourage compatible businesses, reduce crime, and foster pride in our community. NPNA covers the area bounded by Congress Street on the south, the south side of Washtenaw Avenue on the north, Mansfield Street on the west, and the west side of Summit Street on the east. All households within these boundaries are considered members of the neighborhood association automatically. Annual voluntary dues of \$10 per household per year are encouraged. Your dues, along with the proceeds from our annual yard sale registrations, make it possible for the NPNA to hold four quarterly meetings, neighborhood informational meetings, potlucks, and the ice cream social; print and distribute this newsletter and info flyers; support the NPNA website (www.normalpark.org); run the annual children's Halloween parade...and more!

In this Newsletter

Upcoming Events	page 1
News from the Senior Center	page 2
News from the City	page 2
Getting in your Neighbor's Business	page 3
News from the YDL	page 3
Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra	page 4
Time Banking in Ypsilanti	page 4
Know your Neighbors	page 5
News from your Neighbor	page 5
Real Estate Update and Calendar	page 6

NPNA Upcoming Events

**Children's Halloween Parade
SUNDAY, October 26 at 3:00 pm
NEW DAY OF THE WEEK FOR THIS YEAR!!!!**

Sweaters are being worn, leaves are falling, and our annual children's Halloween Parade and party is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for this fun annual event!

The parade route starts in front of the former Ypsilanti Middle School on Mansfield, and will go along Grant and Pearl to Oakwood, where we will finish at the Senior/Community Center with a party.

All children and children at heart are invited to dress in costume and meet in front of the school at 2:50pm. Once again, our faithful Ypsilanti Community High School will lead the parade! If it is raining hard, we will just meet at the Senior Center for a party.



If you are planning to come to the party, please bring a plate of cookies, muffins, or other bite-sized snacks. (We'll leave the candy for Trick-or-Treating.) You can either drop off the goodies at 12:00pm, or you can bring them with you after the parade. The NPNA will provide the cider, and we ask for your help in providing some munchies!

We are looking for a few people to help us set up the center starting at 12:00pm, or help us clean up afterwards. If you can help, please email Adrienne Meyer on adrienneandwarwick@hotmail.com or call 734-484-4677.

Come outside, cheer them on, and enjoy the band. Thanks for your support!



News from the Senior Center

Jewelry Sale

Saturday, December 6 from 9:00am to 3:00pm

We received a large amount of jewelry donated recently, so there will be a lot of new/used pieces to choose from. If you would like to donate jewelry, please bring it to the center during our regular business hours.

Volunteers needed at the Senior Center

We are in need of a few good people!

- **Web site manager:** Valery Kabat has been administrating our web site for quite a while now. Unfortunately she can no longer do it. Thanks, Val for all your service. The site needs to be updated at least once a month. It can be done from your home.
- **Rental helpers:** One of the major ways we bring in money at the center is renting the building for events and parties. We are looking for a few people to help out on weekends to let renters in, be on call during the event and check the building and close it after the event is over.
- **Fundraisers:** We can use some help on a fundraiser committee. Since all of our finances come from grants, donation and rentals, we could use help planning and executing successful fundraisers to support the center.

Call Monica Prince at 734-483-5014 or email ypsiseniors@sbcglobal.net if you can help us out. Thanks!



734-368-6945
amy@ajleo.com

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News from the City

By Bonnie Wessler

Last year, after much public feedback, the City adopted a new Master Plan to guide development and redevelopment throughout the City, including potential zoning changes, traffic changes, and other updates to improve the quality of life for residents, the experience of visitors, and the ease of doing business. Some really great ideas were encapsulated in that plan, and along with it, a strong vision. As part of the implementation process, we're updating our zoning ordinance. Our current zoning ordinance is a bit clunky - on the business side of things, it makes it tough for people to locate here or expand, and on the residential side of things, it makes it difficult for people to rebuild if something happens.

To fix that, the City is rezoning certain areas from two-family to single-family; rezoning to allow more density near downtown; allowing a wider array of businesses in our business districts (a lot of the uses permitted were either antiquated or overly specific); and changing certain regulations to be a bit more flexible with small businesses starting up. We're also making sure to include specific provisions for alternative energy production - like solar panels - and stormwater control - like rain barrels - which was missing from the previous ordinance. If you're interested, the full text of the draft zoning ordinance is available on cityofypsilanti.com/zoningupdate2014 in PDF format, as is the map, and paper copies of both are available at City Hall, the downtown branch of the Ypsilanti Public Library, and Halle Library at EMU. This won't affect your property tax assessment; generally, it affects people who may be planning to expand their house or change the use- to convert it to apartments, for instance, or to convert it *back* from apartments. If you'd like to speak to staff about the changes, please contact me on wesslerb@cityofypsilanti.com or 734-483-9646. There will be a public hearing before Planning Commission on October 15 at 7:00pm in Council Chambers of City Hall, and more public hearings depending on the outcome of that one. Keep an eye on the legal announcements page of the Ypsilanti Courier and the "News" section of the City's webpage!



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Getting in your Neighbor's Business

Supporting businesses in the community in which you live has always been an important way to ensure your community thrives. Need a service or looking for a great place to find that special something? Check out these businesses owned or run by your neighbors, and keep our community growing! (Own a business and haven't been featured here in the past? Contact us for a listing!)

Code Classes 4 Kids

Oliver Siegel, Grant Street
734-788-8899

www.CodeClasses4Kids.com

Did you know that the world's youngest billionaire Mark Zuckerberg, the inventor of Facebook, had a computer programming tutor when he was in middle school? Hi, I'm Oliver, your neighbor on Grant Street, and in the past months I have taught more than 20 kids how they can code their own website, computer games, and apps. If your child is interested in computers and technology and would like to find out how to create their own computer games, or just learn about computer programming, how to code, and computer science, feel free to contact me at oliver@CodeClasses4Kids.com and we can meet for some private lessons. You can also visit my website at CodeClasses4Kids.com and get a free video on how to write your first lines of computer code. It's really easy to get started! Most of my students are between 7 and 14 years old (most around 10). I meet them usually once a week at their house, and we work with JavaScript, HTML, and CSS - these are the programming languages that companies like Google, Yahoo, Facebook, Amazon, and 99% of all internet companies use for their day to day operations. The kids have fun and are eager to learn - and I get a huge kick out of their eyes lighting up when the program does what they wanted it to do. I will empower your kids to be creative, to think, to build, and to experiment independently. Get your kids ready for the future! Programming skills will help your kids to see technology from an insider's perspective, enable them to shape it, and to contribute to it. Empower your child today to create the software of tomorrow.

Carrie Jo Rosati, Hairstylist

Sheridan Street
734-846-1769

hairbycarriejo.weebly.com

I am a licensed cosmetologist, and I've worked at Campus Barber and Beauty Salon in downtown Ann Arbor for the last 10 years. I also provide haircuts and hair color for whole family at a reasonable price out of my home, so please contact me if you'd prefer a hairstyle closer to home!

News from the YDL

Pirate Treasure Hunt Fundraiser

YDL-Whittaker: Friday, Oct. 25, 6:30pm

Arrr, matey! Challenge your mind with a special after-hours treasure hunt. Teams of up to 4 work together to solve clues and earn their treasure. Tickets include a pizza dinner and special pirate-themed performances. Tickets are \$25 per team (\$30 at the door.) Donations benefit children's programs at YDL. Register at www.ypsilibrary.org/treasurehunt

Trunk-or-Treat!

YDL-Superior: Saturday, Oct. 25, 5:00pm - 6:30pm

YDL-Whittaker: Sunday, Oct. 26, 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Climb aboard our haunted Boo!Mobile, enjoy fall games and activities, and gather goodies along the way! Costumes encouraged.

Downtown Halloween

YDL-Michigan: Thursday, Oct. 30, 5:00pm - 6:30pm

While you're enjoying Halloween Downtown festivities, drop by the Library Plaza to pick up candy and popcorn, play a game, win a book, and visit the Boo!Mobile! South Adams Street will be closed for the occasion and kids will have an opportunity to check out fire trucks and HVA's Andy the Ambulance. Costumes encouraged - you may even win the costume contest.

Graphic Medicine: Therapeutic Uses of Comics in Health Care

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Auditorium:
Thursday, Oct. 30, 7:00pm

Whether you're a health care professional or a comic book lover, you may be surprised to learn that comics are making their way into health care! "Comic Nurse" MK Czerwiec will introduce the field of Graphic Medicine, describing the many surprising ways comics are useful in the education of both patients and health care professionals. This program is made possible by a grant from the Will Eisner Family Foundation and Ypsilanti District Library, and is presented in partnership with St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

As always, find all the details at www.ypsilibrary.org.



Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra

Come see the children of the Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra make music on December 7 at 3:00 pm at Ypsilanti Community Middle School at 235 Spencer Lane. Admission is free but contributions are welcome.

In the beginning, William Hayes taught orchestra in the Ypsilanti Public Schools. The strings program was without form and void; and silence was upon the face of the town. The need for a full orchestra experience for the children was hovering over the city. Several months of meetings brought enlightenment, and the YYO was incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization with 17 children!

The YYO was originally started for middle and high school students who would not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in a full orchestra program. YYO was never a part of the Ypsilanti Public School District but depended on it to have a strings program and to provide strings students to play. When the District discontinued its orchestra classes, the YYO was left with no younger students to move into the regular orchestra. No farm team, no feeder class, etc. So-o-o Hayes and the board of directors created a beginning strings class for the YYO, hired a teacher, and started recruiting new students.

Now, in the YYO's 16th season, over 250 children in nine pre-orchestra classes, a string quartet, a jazz ensemble, and a full orchestra learn to make music each Saturday morning. Children playing orchestra music can be heard over the city, over the county, and over southeast Michigan. The silence is gone.

Participating in the orchestra and classes has always been free for the children and their families. Children may even receive free instruments as long as the supply lasts. The YYO awards scholarships to a few students each year for private lessons or Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp camperships. Support comes from grants and individual contributions of funds, service, and instruments. Think about how you can help. Contact Verna Hayes on 734-483-6079 or visit www.ypsiyouthorch.com.

Time Banking in Ypsilanti

By Jeff Yoder and Adrienne Clarke

hOur Exchange Ypsilanti (hEY) is a time bank and community organization that was built on the principles of community involvement and growth through providing services for one another using time as currency. Our members spend time credits for services they receive and earn time credits for services they provide. Services that are currently traded include: laundry, house cleaning, language classes, music lessons, home repair, computer repair, companionship, exercise classes, acupuncture, gardening, transportation, massage, mental health services, permaculture design, pet care, photography services, cooking lessons/meals, lawn care/snow removal. Members are encouraged to find activities they love and spend their time providing those services.

We also feel a stronger sense of belonging in Ypsilanti after meeting some of our neighbors through hEY, people we can rely on in our time of need. We look to our neighbors in Ypsilanti to meet our needs instead of going to the phone book for an impersonal transaction. We are less tied down by money to complete the projects we need done. hEY is a much needed presence in a city where many of its citizens have fallen on hard times.

Time banking encourages members of the local area to participate in activities that better themselves and their neighborhood. Members have a vested interest in the city and are active participants in its revitalization. As it prospers, the city becomes more attractive for new local business and new residents. As land value increases so does the tax revenue for the city. This will increase funding for public services and other vital needs of the city. Our hope is that this will work to create greater equality by showing that no one's time is more valuable than another's and everyone has something to offer and that our community as a whole is vital to our success. Visit <http://hourexchangeypsi.org/>.

Beth Bashert
Sales & Leasing Consultant

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Beth Bashert is donating \$50 to NPNA for each vehicle a neighbor purchases from her and Dunning Toyota!



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Know Your Neighbors

Editor's Note: This is an occasional piece to tell the stories of Normal Park residents: how we got here, what we love, why we stay here. Join us and tell your story by emailing newsletter@normalpark.org.

John Rosati

My wife, Carrie Jo, and I have been Normal Park neighbors for three years now, and we love our neighborhood! We live on Sheridan with our baby son Bryce and our three dogs (a husky and two rat terriers!). I work in Pathology Outreach for Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, and I'm a Veteran of the U.S Army Military Police. I have a passion for people, writing and recording music, hunting, and comedy. Oh, and, log splitting!



Honestly, we feel we got really lucky because we fell in love with the house we live in. The camaraderie of our neighbors, specifically the way the community looks out for everybody and how willing to go out of the way to help one another, makes our house in Normal Park a home. And the addition with a new pool, we're looking forward to making many memories with our little guy. Look for us this winter, we are the house with the dropping LED icicle lights!

News from your Neighbor

Do you have information to share about a public event or activity happening in Normal Park? Submit it for inclusion in the next newsletter. All information is welcome; however, political statements/solicitations are not published.

Boy Scout Troop 290

Eric Maes, Sherman Street

Do you know of a boy who enjoys camping, camping, cooking, fire building, hiking, biking, swimming, sailing, canoeing, survival skills and more? One who is at least in the 5th grade or 11 and is interested in learning leadership skills, citizenship and serving his community? Then come and check out Boy Scout Troop 290. Troop 290 invites you and your son to come to one or all of their four fun filled Fall events such as visiting the Skyzone Indoor Trampoline Park, participating in the Cooking Competition Campout, swimming overnight at the EMU Pool, and doing a Game-Night Overnight at Emmanuel Lutheran.

The Troop is well supported by locally prominent adult leaders and committee members, who have a wide range of outdoor skills, occupational talents, and a strong interest in promoting good citizenship. The mission of the Scouting Movement is to teach young men the value of community service, leadership skills, self-reliance & responsibility and good citizenship, all within a framework of camping and outdoor adventure. Troop 290 is chartered by Emmanuel Lutheran Church on River Street, near Depot Town. They meet on Sunday nights at 6:00pm in the lower hall during the school year. Contact NPNA neighbor Scoutmaster Joe Capuano at scoutmaster@troop290.us for more information.

Troop 290 will be once again doing their **Annual Christmas Greens Sale**. If you are interested in supporting the Scouting movement in Ypsilanti, then let them know by sprucing up your house with a beautiful green! They'll be selling:

- Small and Large Round Wreaths
- Heart and Cross Shaped Wreaths
- 25' and 50' Triple-Mixed Roping
- Door Swags & Grave Blankets
- Table Centerpieces

Contact NPNA neighbor Eric Maes at emaes@provide.net or 734-482-2763 for pricing and ordering details. The Troop will start taking orders in late October with delivery will be the Thanksgiving weekend.

Angela Tripp and Vanessa Criste

We live on North Congress with our two cats, Henry and Clair. Ang is a legal services attorney, and she created and manages the site michiganlegalhelp.org, which has tools for folks who need to represent themselves in simple civil legal matters. Vanessa is an executive assistant at UM and she's also pursuing an MBA at EMU. We met in Normal Park and are getting married in Niagara Falls on October 10! We both chose Normal Park for its beautiful, historic homes and mature trees, and close proximity to downtown. We've lived here since 2010, and we love our neighbors and our neighborhood! We love the sense of community and connectedness, and appreciate the way that neighbors look out for one another and truly care about each other.



Real Estate Update

The following homes are for sale in our neighborhood (as of September 29, 2014):

1016 N. Congress	\$64,900
1313 W. Cross	\$229,900
1120 Grant	\$134,900
207 Elm	\$189,900
201 Oakwood	\$139,900
903 Pearl	\$140,000
914 Sheridan	\$129,800

The following homes were recently sold (March 1, 2014-September 29, 2014):

1127 S. Congress	\$180,000
1115 W. Cross	\$195,000
1612 W. Cross	\$179,500
107 Elm	\$158,000
913 Grant	\$150,000
916 Grant	\$177,000
314 Hiawatha	\$191,000
246 N. Mansfield	\$99,000
359 N. Mansfield	\$135,000
632 N. Mansfield	\$170,000
105 Oakwood	\$197,250
460 Owendale	\$130,000
909 Pearl	\$159,900
1114 Pearl	\$150,000
1120 Pearl	\$167,900
905 Pleasant	\$134,000
938 Sheridan	\$110,000
959 Sheridan	\$139,000
1203 Sherman	\$197,000
1214 Sherman	\$139,500
918 Sherman Ct.	\$152,000
105 N. Wallace	\$152,000

Dennis Longo, an NPNA resident and area Realtor® for over 30 years, compiled the above information. Please contact him at Premier Choice Realty (300 North Huron, Ypsilanti 48197), dennis@premierchoicerealty.biz, or on 734-961-6600 with any real estate questions.

Become a World Famous Author!

...or at least become famous in Normal Park! We are looking for neighbors to write pieces for the NPNA Newsletter on:

- Neighborly Advice (Share your expertise!)
- History of the Neighborhood (Share your stories!)
- Feature articles on topics that would be of interest to the neighborhood (Share (almost) anything!)

Interested? Write us on newsletter@normalpark.org.

Mark your Calendar



For more information on our neighborhood events, visit www.normalpark.org.

- **Depot Town Harvest Fest** Oct. 25
Depot Town
- **Children's Halloween Parade** Oct 26
Former Middle School, Step off at 3:00 pm
- **Downtown Halloween Festival** Oct. 30
Washington Street, 5:00 - 6:30 pm
- **Jewelry Sale** Dec. 6
Senior Center, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
- **D.I.Ypsi** Dec. 13-14
Riverside Arts Center

Contact the NPNA Board

If you have questions about our neighborhood, items you would like discussed at the next board meeting, or information on opportunities to volunteer, please contact us!

By telephone: 734-985-0031

By email: president@normalpark.org

On the web: www.normalpark.org

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About this Newsletter

Inclusion of submitted content, including advertisements, in the NPNA newsletter does not reflect an endorsement by the Normal Park Neighborhood Association or its Board.